

MEMORANDUM

November 24, 1952

TO: Mr. Nelson C. Jackson, Director
Community Services

FROM: Roy E. Norris
Field Representative

SUBJ: Philadelphia Visit - November 19, 1952.

Purpose of Visit:

To attend testimonial dinner for Mr. Wayne Hopkins, Executive Secretary, Armstrong Association, Philadelphia, to represent NUL - UCDS recognition of the Armstrong Associates cooperation on NUL - UCDS program.

Background of Visit:

During the period of my several visits, and earlier, the Armstrong Association and the National Urban League had been having periodic conferences on inter-agency matters following the former's re-affiliation with the National Urban League. Several problems were still being worked out. However, the executive secretary of the Armstrong Association, Mr. Wayne L. Hopkins, was very cooperative regarding the NUL - UCDS project I brought to his attention and several of the citizen-supporters of his testimonial dinner were key supporters of my work there.

Problem Presented:

Quite apart from my own work with the Armstrong Association, there appeared to be some question of strained relationships, in the minds of some individuals. It seemed that if I were absent from the dinner it would mean to those individuals that relationships were strained. My presence could present the opportunity to keep the channels and types of proper cooperation perfectly clear, as well as to pay my respects to Mr. Hopkins and his twenty-five years of service and experience in Philadelphia.

Action Taken:

Mr. R. Maurice Moss, Associate Executive Secretary, National Urban League, was scheduled as one of the speakers for the occasion, and gave a very excellent ten minute talk. Mr. Moss shrewdly highlighted the praiseworthy facts in the relationship of the NUL and the Armstrong Association, the NUL and Mr. Hopkins, and Mr. Hopkins and the community served by him.

I sat with staff members of the Association, with whom I have been

working in Philadelphia. At my table there were constant remarks being passed which revealed a general feeling (not necessarily shared by each staff member, though) that there was personal bitterness existing between NUL personnel and that of the Armstrong Association. This was particularly evident as the principal dinner speaker, Mr. Leslie Finckney Hill, former President, Cheyney State Teachers College, amid his silver-toned oratory, let loose many sharply barbed and cutting remarks.

After the dinner, I made it a point to chat momentarily with as many local people as possible, and I am sure that the remarks given by Mr. Moss and my presence served to emphasize the importance of our work regardless of personalities or agencies problems.

cc: Mr. Granger - Mr. Moss
Mr. Thomas
Mr. Parris
Mr. Johnson
Miss Tannayhill-Mr. Finley-Mr. Pope
Dr. Banner-Mr. Kason